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Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

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"The wisest of the wise may err." -- Aeschylus "

The Budget Battle Continues

President Stuart Fagan told the Board of Trustees at its June 14 meeting that \$102,000 may be restored to the GSU budget. On June 12, the Senate voted to restore \$5.8 million in cuts Governor Ryan made to higher education. Jeff Slovak, GSU budget director said, "We will know our budget for certain in a few days." After the restoration, the appropriated budget will be down \$1.7 million from original FY02 budget levels. Even though the budget for higher education has been essentially resolved, Slovak added, "The budgets of a number of state agencies, some of which have substantial contracts with us or provide large grants to the university, are still unsettled. What happens to their funding could have a major impact on us. We'll know more in the next week or so."

Show Me the Money

Governors State's Leadership Development Institute Certificate Program has received a renewal contract for more than \$138,000 from the Department of Human Services. The grant will be used to train the Department's mid-and-senior level managers. Classes are held at GSU. Two GSU senior faculty, Michele McMaster of the College of Arts and Sciences and Chris Easley of the College of Business and Public Administration conduct the courses using a team teaching approach. In the renewal contract document, DHS describes the program "as one of the Department's most successful inter-divisional management staff development initiatives. In its fourth year, the [Institute] has enjoyed the Department's continuing support and the enthusiastic, voluntary participation of 118 middle and senior managers across all of the Department's division." The Division of Science has received a \$52,000 grant from the State of Illinois Board of Higher Education to conduct one-credit-hour workshops in physiology, animal ecology, and biotechnology for high school and middle school teachers. The workshops will provide them with the means to meet teacher re-certification requirements and enhance the likelihood that their students will meet the State's standards in science.

Coming Down to the Wire

College of Education Dean Diane Alexander briefed the Board of Trustees on the progress toward securing NCATE accreditation. "It's different from anything the college has been through before," she said. "In the past, state approval was given based on a review of the process and evaluation of individual courses and programs. But NCATE looks at the unit as a whole and evaluates final results." The Board questioned her closely about whether she had sufficient resources. Several trustees stated unequivocally that she had their full support. The Board promised to back President Fagan in providing whatever additional resources may be required.

A Sign of the Times

The College of Business and Public Administration has developed an academic program proposal for a master of science degree in Emergency and Disaster Management. The proposal has been forwarded to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for review. Trustee Kristi DeLaurentiis lauded the effort at the board meeting. “The program can really fill a niche in Illinois and, actually, nationally,” she said.

Certificate Policy Gets a Thumbs Up

Certificates in certain areas of study are coming to Governors State. A new policy has been approved by President Stuart Fagan and sent to the Faculty Senate. The policy addresses such issues as admissions requirements, hours, and student requirements. Approved certificates include Accounting for Managers (CBPA), Leadership and Organizational Development (CBPA), and Stress Management (CE).

Having Their Say: Generation Next

Also at Friday’s board meeting, Elizabeth Vasquez was installed as the new student representative to the Board of Trustees. The 25-year-old resident of Chicago Heights is an undergraduate biology major. Vasquez replaces Ivy White.

Glutton for Punishment

John Stoll, Dean, Center for Extended Learning and Communication Services has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Crete Village Board.

A Chance to Shine

The Upward Bound Program at Governors State University is sponsoring a summer of learning and fun for more than 40 area youth from low-income communities. From June 17 – July 19, the youth will receive free tutoring in math, science, and English. The summer experiences will also include bus tours of cultural and educational institutions in the area and team-building activities at the Irons Oak Field Center in Flossmoor. The Upward Bound Program is for high-achieving minority youth who live in impoverished communities in the south suburbs. Youth participants are between the ages of 14 and 17. The Office of Economic Education will also hold a summer enrichment program for more than 50 at-risk area students. The Economic Achievers program is designed to introduce junior high school students to basic economic and investment principles. The summer’s itinerary will include trips to Chicago’s Mercantile Exchange and the Federal Reserve Bank.

Party Hard and Benefit GSU

If you’re planning the Great American cook-out or a picnic for the July 4 holiday, buy your hot dogs, salad fixings, and other food items at your local Jewel-Osco. On July 1, 2 and 3, five percent of your total purchase (excluding taxes) will be donated to the GSU Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, a psychology honor society. Students plan to use the money to buy new computer software that will enable them to offer free counseling to individuals in the university and the community. They will suggest the best career or profession for an individual, based on personality, skills, and interests. When you make your purchase, make sure that you submit a Jewel-Osco Shop and Share Identification slip, which will be available for pick-up at locations across campus. For more information, contact Dr. Byron Waller on Extension 4904.